median line and terminal apertures (so called) very distinct, no striæ detected with Ross's $\frac{1}{8}$ in. objective. Front view: form the same as side view, except the sides are nearly parallel, instead of being as much curved as in side view.

Lon. $\frac{3\frac{1}{2}}{100}$ mm. lat. $\frac{1\frac{1}{2}}{100}$ mm. Very rare.

Mr. William E. Baker, of Brookline, was chosen a Resident Member.

February 16, 1859.

Dr. C. T. Jackson, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Mr. T. J. Whittemore read the following description of a new species of Helix, from Maine.

HELIX MILIUM Morse.

Shell minute, transparent, shining; epidermis white, with a greenish tinge; distinctly and regularly striated above; whorls rounded, rapidly enlarging; suture very deeply impressed; spire slightly elevated; microscopic lines running parallel with the whorls, more conspicuous beneath; umbilicus quite large, deep, and showing all the volutions; outer lip sharp.

Diam. 0.05, height 0.02.

Distribution—Portland, Me.; Augusta, Me.; Bethel, Me; Saco, Me.; Westbrook, Me.

Observations. The rapidly enlarging whorls remind one at first sight of the young of *H. indentata*, Say. The under side resembles slightly the young of *H. minuscula*, Binney. It is about the size of *H. minutissima*, Lea.

The peculiarities of the shell are its diminutive size, its rapidly enlarging and well-rounded whorls, its deep and regular striations, which become obscure at apex, and the microscopic lines running parallel with the whorls.

This little shell I first found at Mt. Independence, Westbrook,

Me., Aug. 16, 1857, in company with *Pupa exigua*, Say, and the smaller Helices.

Found generally on low lands, where they seemed to be surrounded by water, though it has been found on high lands where the ground was comparatively dry. Mr. Charles B. Fuller, of Portland, found them quite numerous in a grove of pines,—an unusual place for Helices to be found in.

Dr. C. T. Jackson observed that, having searched in vain for a red dye in the red-bug (*Reduvius*), he had found the whole insect rapidly soluble, with effervescence, in nitric acid, forming a dark brown solution. On dipping a piece of flannel prepared by an alum mordant into this solution, and then into an ammoniated solution, he obtained a deep rich orange and permanent dye; it does not take well on cotton fabrics. A permanent yellow dye, and one which could be used as a basis for greens and browns, would be a very desirable thing, as much of the yellow flannel is dyed with chromate of lead, as well as with the yellow berry, and might prove dangerous if worn next the skin. It does not make a good pigment, as its lake is ochreous, and not a desirable color. These insects are very abundant and destructive, and the possibility of their being made available in the arts would add another and a powerful motive for their collection and destruction.

Dr. Jackson also made some remarks on the corrosive properties of Mexican guano.

This substance in twenty-four hours will destroy the bags which contain it, in a few days will render a cask rotten, and in the course of a short voyage will so dissolve out the oakum used in caulking vessels as to render them leaky, as has been proved in several instances, to the knowledge of Mr. P. A. Stone, of Boston. This guano has been so altered by the action of rain and sea-water, that it presents an excess of phosphoric acid, in the form of soluble acid phosphate of lime. Whether the solvent action is due to free phosphoric acid, or to the presence of the animal matter with it, is not satisfactorily determined. The ammoniacal guano, such as that from the Chincha Islands, has no such effect on cloth or wood.